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MEDIA ADVISORY

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) is soliciting applications from Azerbaijani citizens for a master's degree program in journalism and media management offered by the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management and taught by instructors from the United States, European Union member states, Georgia and Azerbaijan. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, with supplementary funding from the Open Society Institute. The overall goal of the program is to strengthen the media in the emerging democratic societies of the Caucasus.

Five Azerbaijani students will be selected to study at Khazar University in Baku and GIPA in Tbilisi during the academic years 2011-13. The program curriculum provides a hands-on, experiential approach to learning the latest techniques of fact-based, professional reporting and writing in both print and broadcast media. Management techniques and key knowledge fields, such as economics and the judiciary, are also stressed. Faculty and curriculum for the School will be provided in cooperation with the International Center for Journalists, a Washington-based journalistic association, and Louisiana State University's Manship School of Communication.

The program will be offered in four semesters from October 2011 to May 2013. 1st and 4th semesters of the program will be held in Baku, in cooperation with the Khazar University and other media organizations. Students will study in Georgia from January-December 2012 and return there for the defense of a thesis/ final project in May 2013. While resident at GIPA, Students will have access to computer, audio and video equipment, the Internet, and a journalism library. The program will produce a student newspaper, *Brosse Street Journal*, in print and electronic versions and air reports to Radio GIPA FM.

Strong English language skills, as demonstrated by TOEFL scores and at an oral interview, are required.

The U.S. Embassy in Baku provides tuition support and financial assistance for the duration of studies in Georgia to students who demonstrate financial need. .

Entrance procedures are: English language testing (TOEFL), essay writing (in Azerbaijani) and an interview (in English-language) with an Azerbaijani-American admissions committee in Baku. Deadline for application is September 1, 2011.

For more information and for submitting applications, contact:

Ilgar Khudiyev, program representative, at ixudiyev@yahoo.com or 050 319-66-80 (cell).

Or:

Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management at
Georgian Institute of Public Affairs
Address: 2 Brosse Street, Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel/fax: 99532 93-14-66, cell: 99599 50-24-46
E-mail: jschool@gipa.ge web: http://www.gipa.ge/csjmm/cert_en.php .

Additional Information:

The Georgian Institute of Public Affairs was established in 1994 as a non-governmental, non-profit educational institution, raising a cadre of highly trained public servants and journalists to support democratic and market reforms in Caucasus.

Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management (CSJMM) was established in 2001 to support the development of independent media in the Caucasus by means of educational and training programs in journalism, communication and media management. The school's philosophy is that journalists -- well grounded in skills to report fairly and accurately -- will raise the level of journalism where they practice, and will serve the public by providing truthful information and upholding the highest ethical standards of the profession.

Since its opening in January 2002, CSJMM's English-language, regional program graduated 107 students with master's degrees in journalism and media management. In Azerbaijan, CSJMM has graduates, who hold leading positions in the professional media. Overall employment rate is 87%. The graduates today are well-established journalists committed to the principles of fairness, independence, honesty and accuracy in their work for newspapers, television and radio. The biggest employers of Azerbaijani graduates are: 1News, Turan, APA News agencies, ANS TV and ANS Press, Caspian Business News, Hesabat magazine, BBC Monitoring, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty's Azerbaijani and Russian Services.

